



United States Department of Agriculture

Minnesota Fact Sheet

Wetland Map Symbols

May 2007

Effective in May of 2007 USDA will begin using new symbology on producer maps to identify wetland determinations that have been completed to date. These maps provide basic information on the type and existence of wetland locations. There is also an explanation of the various levels of manipulation that are allowed on these wet areas. As a USDA participant you are responsible to self certify your compliance with USDA wetland provisions also known as Swampbuster. This Fact Sheet provides the following clarifications to revised maps that you will receive:

- ◆ This map does **not** represent any change in wetland procedures, filing of AD-1026 requests, determinations, or regulations.
- ◆ The 1985 Food Security Act allows landowners to maintain any manipulation to a wetland that occurred prior to December 22, 1985. See the Fact Sheet on Allowable Wetland Maintenance for additional information.
- ◆ USDA has retained the same wetland labeling system since Swampbuster was implemented in 1985.
- ◆ These maps contain a digitized symbol to indicate that some type of NRCS wetland determination (either an official or a certified) has been made on the **cropland acreage** shown on the map. All previous NRCS determinations have been put on these maps. These maps are used primarily for acreage reporting **and not wetland compliance**.
- ◆ The color coded symbols on these maps are **not** your USDA wetland determination map.
- ◆ Both FSA and NRCS have the USDA wetland determination maps available for landowners and operators. Copies of these original maps have previously been provided to all producers. If lost, you can request another copy.

- ◆ Wetland determinations made by NRCS prior to 1997 are not considered **certified** wetland determinations. Non-certified determinations do not provide landowners a complete and accurate mapping of wetlands. Additional wetlands and the size and type of wetlands identified on non-certified determinations may **not** be correct. USDA recommends that a landowner or operator request a certified wetland determination if there is a question about the status of a wetland.



Example: Map with Wetland Symbol



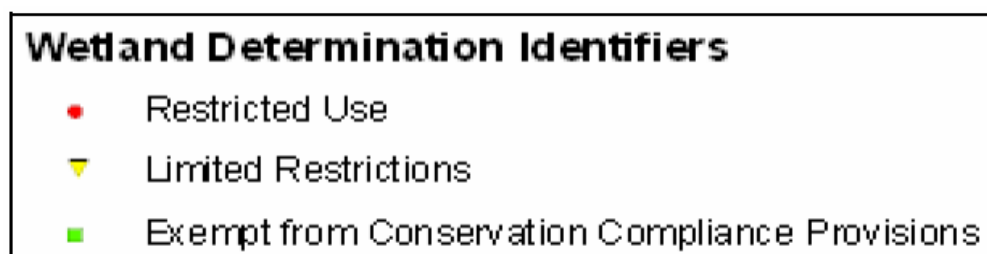
Example: USDA Wetland 026 Determination Map

Before the implementation of the FSA Common Land Unit (CLU) project, maps created for producers contained labels and delineations of Natural Resource Conservation Service wetland determinations. The move to use CLU and other digital data to create producer maps brought about the wetland point layer to represent these wetland determinations. The wetland point previously displayed as a blue dot symbol. Beginning in May 2007 the symbology has been modified to print in categories.

The Wetland types will be grouped into the following three categories referred to as Wetland Determination Identifiers on FSA maps:

- **“Restricted Use”** (W, CW, CW+YR, AW/W, GFW, GFW+YR, RSW, RSW+YR, RPW), which is represented by a **red octagon**
- **“Limited Restrictions”** (FW, FWP, CWNA, AW/FW, CWTE, TP, WX, MIW, MW, MWM, CMW, NI, OW, Easement), which is represented by an **upside-down yellow triangle**
- **“Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions”** (PC, NW, PC/NW, CC, NW/NAD, AW), which is represented by a **green square**.

The FSA producer map will have the following legend displayed:



FSA producer maps (not FSA public maps) will contain the following disclaimers:

“Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS.” “USDA FSA maps are for FSA Program administration only. This map does not represent a legal survey or reflect actual ownership; rather it depicts the information provided directly from the producer and/or the 2003 ortho rectified imagery for Minnesota. Wetland points reflect records available with NRCS and may or may not constitute a full inventory of the property. The producer accepts the data ‘as is’ and assumes all risks associated with its use. The USDA Farm Service Agency assumes no responsibility for actual or consequential damage incurred as a result of any user's reliance on this data outside of FSA Programs.”

Additional information on map wetland identifiers can be garnered from either FSA or NRCS staff.

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